Nothing Pure) Part 2

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Summary: If you ever saw this story before you'll notice I broke it into smaller parts. There were originally 4. The story seems to have disappeared from the 'net. and I'm missing one part (a fight scene

Julie VS the Dark Legion ^_^) hope you won't all notice

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Nothing Pure) Part 2

>To say that Kragok was merely surprised to find the base restored would be

br>the king of all understatements. It would be like saying that space

>was just 'big' or the sun is just 'hot'. He had thought that rebuilding
 the a long, drawn-out process and that even then it would never be

>one third as good as it used to be. Yet here he stood, with everything clean

br> and new and,(hard to believe,) better than before. There seemed to be a

>lot of effort gone into making the place look attractive, more homelike yet
br> still technical looking enough for Kragok's taste. The walls were paneled

>with shining silver steel with mate black metal in a diamond shapes

shr>overlaying. In the center of each large diamond was a light fixture that

>looked like a mirrored triangle facing down with another triangle over it.

br>Each one emitted a strange green light.

>
 The members of the Dark legion wandered around down dark halls bathed in

>the eerie green light feeling somewhat mystified. The air was damp yet as
br>fresh as outside and everything seemed more alive in here. Fear may have

>held them back but curiosity and wonder beckoned them on. No one said a
br>word and the silence was violated only by the humming of machines...only

>it didn't sound like any machine he had ever herd; not a whir or hum
but

br>more....of a breathing sound... The dim green glow was

- soothing yet it
- >made them anxious, there was almost something...'alive' about the light.

 this place was cold and metallic but it had a certain softness to it that
- >they would have found comforting had they not been so on edge. The whole
br>place had a living harmonious flow, as of it were not a machine they were
- >in, but the body of an animal. This idea made them more nervous.
 <bre><bre>
- > Kragok began to wonder again who could have done this. This was a
br>mechanical masterpiece.
- >What put him on edge was not so much the question of who had done this,
br>but 'where were they?'.
- >Why would they build this work of art and then leave it?
br> The only solution that he could think of seemed too obvious (and to
- >frightening) to mention, he didn't want to believe it but he realized that
br>he must consider the possibility (and it seemed to be the same possibility
- >that the others had come upon) that the builders were still here. But
br>where? Their question would soon be answered.
- > The layout of the base was much the same as before yet a bit smaller. The
br>band reached one of the doors to the Great Hall and cautiously opened it.
- >The walls, floor and ceiling were all bare. The hall itself was much larger
than before, but it was totally vacant. There was nothing there, it simply
- >seemed to be a big, empty room with no purpose....or a hidden purpose that
br>he was not meant to know...
- > Kragok opened his mouth to speak but the words would not come. The strange

br>white creature pushed past him without a word, as if he weren't there and
- >nothing had happened. As if he had not just sent a strong, heavily

 constructed, temperature resistant metal pod to hell with just a thought.
- >Everyone watched as it wordlessly approached the next pod in the line. It's
br>panel had a symbol of a red box with a blue triangle with the words,
- >"The Second" printed near the control screen. He mindlessly pushed in a few
br>codes and the red light near the top of the pod turned on and it began
- >
 Kragok cautiously approached and the white echidna quickly turned his head
- >and backed away.
 "We have no business with you. You who have betrayed us and come back
- >again," he sneered
 "What are you talking about? We've never
 met. "
- > "Liar. I don't remember much but I remember you did to us. Black
 Horde,
once wore, to hide our shamed faces, not
 knowing that the
- >mask from which we hid was what further disgraced us. For your cause you

tr>used us. You said your purpose was restore harmony to the Mobius torn by the
- >wars....yet YOU were the REAL scourge and we were your pawns. " $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc br}}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc vii}}\mbox{\sc viii}\mbox{\sc v$
- > "GET. Out. I could have killed you but I spared your miserable lives, not
or pity or mercy but because I don't want more blood on my hands than there

- >already is."

- > So he had been used before as Kragok had intended to use him now. He could
 till recall nothing in history about a Black Horde. This creature was
- >still not lost to him. He could still win him over if he used the right
br>words. Nothing was beyond the powers of a good speech carefully worded.
- > As he allies said, No means maybe and maybe means yes. The creature had

 had

 'no' so it was a question of maybe now. Kragok thought fast about what
- >to say then, once he found it, he turned the melodrama on high.

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- >the second pod hummed and hissed. $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{obr}}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{"}}}\mbox{There now, my friend, my brother. Now that the evil, cursed Black}$
- >Horde has been vanquished at our hands you need no more blood on yours.

 You can now have the acceptance you've wanted. We accept you."
- > "The Black Horde is dead? Who are you then? Why do you wear THEIR

the>>robes?"
- > The other Legionnaires were drastically confused at first but quickly
caught on to what their master was doing. If he could use lies and lead that
- >thing to trust him he would be it's master and wield it's power with the
 they creature being none the wiser. They only hoped that it didn't blow up in his
- >face...
 " It was a long, hard battle. You slept for many years
 as it raged. I,
- >the...son of your creator have ended the strife that my family has

 truggled for years to end. I was told by the diary of my father that there
- >was a place here that we must come when the battle was won. Though I knew
br>not what was here I led my troops here. I admit that I am still finding out
- >much the past that I do not know."
 " You and I both then. That still doesn't explain why you wear the colors
- >
 Kragok would have been put on the spot by that one but as luck or fate
- >would have it there was a convenient distraction: The door of the

 cond pod swung upward and opened.
- > The girl held her arms as if very cold. It was understandable since she

br>was still wet and the room was freezing. She seemed not to see anyone but
- >looked around the room in disbelief.
 "I never thought I'd see this again." she whispered to herself.
- >"What is this...feeling? am I alive again. I was prepared for eternal sleep.
i was prepared to face the void alone, forever. I never thought that I'd
- >face life again. I was not prepared. I...forget it.

 life! In the cool and bitter room she sank to her knees on the
- >shining metal floor and gazed at her reflection in it. Without a word or
br>tear she simply sat and existed. And she thought about existing and about
- >life and she saw her dim reflection in the green light of the room and it
br>seemed as though she was in the dreamworld again. Dead on the outside, dead
- >golden eyes ...
 The white creature broke away from the Dark

- Legion and Kragok's grip on his
- >shoulder. There were tears in his eyes and it seemed as if he could not
bring himself to approach the other, she still saw nothing and sat as a
- >ghost would, silently and calmly. from a few feet away he stretched out his
>br>hand towards her.
- >cheeks.

 "Ayashi? ...Ayashi!" She ran over and hugged him tightly. He sensed the
- >eyes of the legion on him and looked up nervously.

- > As Kragok and the others were wandering in the fortress Julie-Su had snuck
off, trying to get far away from that zone. To her surprise she had walked
- >only a short distance and found Knuckles alone near the old Mount Fate in
obr>the marble zone. This wasn't a place where anyone usually went and she
- >wondered what he was doing way out here. He had been meditating again...

 something he seemed to do far too often in her opinion. His fire ant
- >teacher Archemedes encouraged him to do it every day. He was mumbling

 or>something angrily interjecting his grumbles with the meditative 'Om'
- >sound.
 "Om.....Stupid Archimedes and his
 meditation!....Om.....Stupid cold!
- >Stupid ant, make sit and be cold! Om. Stupid snow!"

- > Julie-Su didn't interrupt him but rather crept up from behind and waited
br>until he was finished to sneak up on him. He continued to mumble complaints
- > "Om.....I'm missing the winter carnival! Stupid friends, probably

br>having the time of their life without me. Om. Stupid, boring meditation,
- > Where's Julie-Su? She's always around but not when I'm bored. Om.......... Stupid Julie-Su..... Om..... Probably out chasing beetles in the
- >Sandopolis Zone with the rest of the Legion loosers....Om....."
- >Julie-Su continued to wait. A few minutes later he got up and turned

 drawing into her.
- > "Hey, Red." She said pulling down her black hood. Knuckles noticed an
 'sangry frowning sort of smile on her face. She must have herd all that
- >'Stupid Julie-Su' stuff he said.
 "I knew you were there." he said lamely
- > "Yea, right."
 "No, I really did know you were there."
- > "Whatever."
 Knuckles didn't feel that he could waste the energy to argue. He was
- >hungry and tired.
 Archemedes had been planing to send him out into the wilderness for
- >some little fastingmeditation thing for quite some time. It was supposed
- >to last for three days and he was supposed to go for the whole three days

days

 without sleep, water, food or contact with anyone. He was supposed to be
- >alone right now meditating. He didn't tell his friends where he was going or that he was going at all for that matter!). In fact they had expected
- >him to be at the winter carnival watching them in the big ice boat race,
br>not allowed to compete himself because he wasn't 16 yet.

- > The journey had begun this morning in the marble zone while Kragok had been

 br>giving his 'Tired of tents' oration to his minions.
- > During this journey Knux would have to traverse the whole island on foot.

 foot.

 He was only about five hours into his trip when he became desperately bored
- >and hungry (All he ate for breakfast was a few grapes.) when
 Julie-Su came
br>along. He was so happy to see her (or anyone for
 that matter)that he had a
- >hard time keeping up his usual appearance of apathy towards her. He didn't
br>care about breaking the rules about seeing people right now, She'd only
- > "So what are you up to way out here?" Julie-Su asked him, her anger fading.
 'Fasting. Meditating. Ya know the usual thing."
- > "Fasting?"
 "Yea, that's when you don't eat and stuff."
- > "Why? For how long?"
 "Just three days. This is supposed to be
 a three day journey to 'find my
- >soul' or something, It's not my Idea. Archimedes is making me" he rolled his
br>eyes then turned up his nose and mimicked Archimedes's voice,
- > "No food, no water, no people. To find answers you must look

 within yourself, Bla bla. This isn't a journey through the Floating island,
- >it's a journey through your own consciousness. You have to thin about
br>nothing and concentrate on the answers. Your father did this and his
- >father blabla! I suck. Bal bla! So basically it means I have to do
 too."
- > "No people?"
 "Yes. I guess I am bending the rules some. So
 what's up in Dark Legion
- >Land?" he said trying to change the subject.
 "Are you going to ask if we caught any sand beetles lately? Is that what
- >you think we do?"
 'You aren't STILL mad about that? I was angry when I said it. I want to
- >know what you've been up to. It's been a couple of days since I saw
 you."

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 you."
- >
 Julie-Su paused for a moment. At first wondering if this was genuine
- >caring or a form a sarcasm. Or maybe it was an act, maybe he was just
>br>using her to get to the Dark Legion.
- > That had always been a small fear tucked away in the back of her mind;

 drywas he just pretending to be a friend so he could bring the Legion down
- >from the inside?
 She wanted to tell him how she felt that something bad was going to happen
- >whenever she thought of the base or the freedom fighters or him. She wanted
br>to tell him about what she had herd about the old base being restored,
- >but she wasn't sure that she had herd right. She didn't know what else

br>could have excited Kragok so much but she wasn't sure that the information
- >was right. It seemed improbable that everything was fixed so
 naturally she
br>was slow to believe. She also felt that it wouldn't
 be a good idea to
- >tell Knuckles of the feeling of danger she had, it might scare him,or he
>br>might just laugh at her intuition...
- >
 The other reason she hesitated to tell him was that if he

tried to stop

- >them from using their old headquarters Kragok would know that she had been

 treachery in her all
- >along.
br>She remembered the piercing mechanical stare he had given her. Every time he
- >glanced her way she felt as though he knew exactly what she was thinking and
br>was waiting for the right second to expose her.
- > She wasn't a popular member of the Dark Legion but they seemed to keep her
br>around for some reason. She could never get kicked out, one more screw
- >up would kill her. They would never simply let her go... She searched
for the right words to tell him what she wanted to,
- >
 "We're leaving camp the Sandopolis zone." She said. Her eyes wouldn't meet
- >this for some reason but that was a good enough answer. It wasn't a lie.
 'Where are you going." Knuckles asked. Something told him that she was
- >hiding something.

br>Julie-Su was always hiding something. She existed in two worlds that could
- >never come together, and she struggled with all her power to keep them apart.

 She always changed the subject when questions of he past or family were
- >raised but Knux understood that... this was different. The Legion was
br>dangerous, anything about plans or important stuff like that could pose a
- >threat to the Floating island...maybe Mobius as well. He had to draw it out
 through the standard of the Floating island...maybe Mobius as well. He had to draw it out
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 to the Floating island...maybe Mobius as well.
- > "You know the old base?"
 Knux laughed,
- > "Yea, That place is trashed good! Good luck fixin' it, Babe! Maybe
 by the
 'stime your eighty you'll be halfway done!"
- > "NEVER CALL ME THAT!!! and for your information it's already
 fixed!"
 (How could I have let that slip out! aww!, too late he
 knows now) Knux drew
- >back and looked away. He looked away mostly so she wouldn't see he was

smiling. He loved making her mad like that. They always bickered like that.
- >Then it him how weird it was that the Dark Legion's old digs were back

 br>up and running. It couldn't be... he had seen that dump wasted only a few
- >months ago. It totally overloaded.
 "You're joking...right?...I
 mean...how?"
- > "I don't know... That's just what I herd... but I dunno, Knux. I've
 got
br>a bad feeling about all this..."
- > "Bad feeling?"
"Yea, like when you're a little kid and you
 think there's, like, a monster
- >under your bed or something? When ever you have to go to bed at night you
obr>get this sinking feeling? 'cause you think it's going to get you....Well
- >that's what it was like when I was around the old base."
br> "You think there's a monster in the old Dark Legion H.Q. because of
- >something you might have misheard?" He said in a disbelieving, somewhat

condescending tone.
- > "No! Well, I don't know what exactly but..."
> "Your afraid of
 it?"
- > Just then a strange thought hit her.
> "....No, Knux. I think I'm afraid FOR it."
- >

- > Knuckles paused for a moment not knowing what to say. There was silence

between them, an uncomfortable silence.
- > "It's OK."

 'S Julie-Su started to wander off, "What if the Legion starts to cause trouble
- >and you're not here?"
>she asked
- > "I don't think that the island is going to fall out of the sky if I stop
thinking about it for five seconds."
- >He smiled. ", Anyway I gotta hike to Angel's island about now if I want to
 cross the whole island in time. I'll catch ya later..., babe. "He said
- >using a precious bit of energy in ruining off. It was worth it to get the
br>last word in and make her mad.
- > "DON'T CALL ME BABE!" She yelled after him. "He did that just to get
br>me mad!'' she growled.
- > It was no use yelling at him he was gone. Julie-Su sighed, pulled up the

br>hood of her cloak and started her trip back to the site where the legion
- >was before anyone realized that she was gone.

- >By the time she got there Kragok was up on a makeshift platform with a
or>podium about to give another speech. Everyone waited attentively for
- >him to begin, but Kragok waited just as attentively for their 'New friends'
br>to arrive.

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hidden from the sight of Knuckles and Julie-Su was a tiny floating camera.

>Sometimes when she was with Knuckles Julie-Su felt like she was being

br>watched but didn't think much of it. There probably wasn't anyone really

>watching anyway, she would think.
 A tiny figure was standing on a big control panel of a huge monitoring

- >system. He was a fire ant. He wore dull green boots, vest and a hat.

 Siting in a chair behind him was an echidna with gloves Similar to
- >Knuckle's. He was trying to hide a small laugh.
 "What's so funny, Locke?" Archemedes almost snarled
- > "He reminds me of me when you made me do that stupid meditation
 trip."
'You were never that obnoxious."
- > "You thought so when I was his age!"
 "I hate young guardians."
- > "No matter," Locke brought himself back to his usual state of seriousness,
br>it was needed for dealing with the matter at hand. In Haven they would
- >wait in the shadows and intervene if necessary. Archimedes was annoyed hr>that Knuckles had broken one of the many rules that had been set out
- >for him but it might become necessary to break more if he was to protect
tr>the island from this new threat. The matter was not that serious yet,
- >however.
>

>-------br>Ayashi's room Inside the fortress

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br>"I don't like it, Cel." Ayashi said, or rather thought. Whenever they were

- >alone they would communicate with thoughts rather than words like many of
>br>...
- >
 No one was feeling right today. They had just woke up after being
- >frozen for a number of years in cryogenic suspension. Ayashi was

 tritable.
- >Celebra was anxious. She wasn't used to living. When the Snow crab,

 detellius ushered her into the life pod and she had prepared herself for
- >the fact that no one would ever wake them up. She felt that every

 cond led her closer to death and she was aware of the death of the
- >bacteria all around her. She dreaded going topside and seeing all the
br>death out there.
- >
 Spade remembered stepping inside and watching the door come down.
- >There was a great number of his brothers and sisters outside, but they
br>did not say 'good-bye' no one said good-bye, everyone wanted to
- >believe that someone would wake them up in the future but it was

 that anyone but the Black Horde would. The sleek metal
- >smooth floor felt pleasantly cool on his bear feet, he stood straight in
br>the position that he would assume for his long dormancy period with his
- >head bowed and arms crossed. Metal hooks snapped hold of his

br>shoulders, legs and waist and a breathing mask was clasped over his
- >open mouth. This all happened in a heartbeat, monitoring system wires

br>wrapped around him like snakes, with minds of their own. A pipe near
- >the bottom near the back of the pod ,that he could see slightly if he

br>turned his head enough, was ejaculating the clear life preservation
- >liquid into the capsule. This special liquid could change temperatures

br>quickly and as soon as the space inside the pod was full of the liquid he
- >would be flash frozen. Within 5 seconds even his now warm body would

 tr>be at absolute zero and dead to the world.
- > As the liquid flooded above his eyes he could no longer see the outside

br>through his small window. He felt a great lingering bitterness for this
- >world.
 Now he was awake and all he could think about was how the world had
- >shunned him.
 He wanted revenge.
- >
 "Fine I'll wear it, but I don't want to" sighed Code.
- > "I'm sure none of the guys want you to either." Spade joked
"What's that supposed to mean?!"
- > "Ayashi, I think it's time to go up and meet the Black Hor--- I mean the

br>Dark Legion." Celebra interrupted
- > "(Who are they?)" wondered Akuma
Celebra answered out loud for the benefit of Sister Third,

- > "Our saviors. Their leader is a descendant of the master. They wear

the cloaks of the Horde."
- > "Cel is right. (sort of) Everyone, let's go." They started off,
 "Wait!"

 '' said stopping abruptly
- >"What about our brothers and sisters who have yet to awaken?"
"We left Chash in the Great hall while we went to find you. He'll stay

>with them." Akuma said.
 "Ok. Let's get this over with."

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